

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 DAMASC 04225 291426Z

47

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

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O 291352Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5026

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T DAMASCUS 4225

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ASEC, PINS, LE

SUBJECT: GALLAGHER/DYKES KIDNAPPING

REF: STATE 254920

1. DURING MEETING OCT. 28 WITH DIR. MILITARY INTELLIGENCE, COL. ALI DUBA, I RAISED GALLAGHER/DYKES KIDNAPPING, EXPRESSING OUR CONTINUED HIGH INTEREST IN SECURING THEIR EARLIEST RELEASE AND OUR APPRECIATION OF SYRIA'S EFFORTS TO DATE. DUBA REPLIED THAT SYRIA WAS DOING WHAT IT COULD TO HELP AND SAID HE WOULD INFORM COS SHIHABI THAT I HAD AGAIN RAISED MATTER.

2. IN SEPARATE CONVERSATION SAUDI CHARGE VOLUNTEERED TO DCM THAT HE HAD TWICE BEEN IN TOUCH WITH ARAFAT ON SUBJECT. IN FIRST CONVERSATION, ARAFAT HAD SAID FATAH WOULD SECURE RELEASE OF GALLAGHER/DYKES, USING FORCE IF NECESSARY. TWO DAYS AGAO, CHARGE SAID, HE HAD SPOKEN WITH ARAFAT IN BEIRUT BY PHONE. ARAFAT HAD TOLD HIM "AMERICANS WERE IN DIRECT CONTACT WITH HABBASH." IF THESE CONTACTS BROKE DOWN, ARAFAT WOULD BE READY TO INTERVENE. (IMPLICATION WAS THAT ARAFAT HAD SUSPENDED EFFORTS FOR TIME BEING.) CHARGE OFFERED TO SPEAK TO ARAFAT OR PLO AGAIN IF WE WISHED. DCM DENIED U.S. IN DIRECT TOUCH WITH HABBASH, SAID WE STILL VERY INTERESTED IN RELEASE OF TWO HOSTAGES AND ADDED WE WOULD KEEP SAUDI

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CHARGE INFORMED OF ANY NEW DEVELOPMENTS.

MURPHY

SECRET

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** KIDNAPPING, NEGOTIATIONS, PRISONERS RELEASE  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 29 OCT 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** CunninFX  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975DAMASC04225  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750374-1097  
**From:** DAMASCUS  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
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**Legacy Key:** link1975/newtext/t19751011/aaaaajhu.tel  
**Line Count:** 62  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION SS  
**Original Classification:** SECRET  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** SECRET  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
**Reference:** 75 STATE 254920  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** CunninFX  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 15 AUG 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <15 AUG 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <03 DEC 2003 by CunninFX>  
**Review Markings:**

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EO Systematic Review  
06 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** GALLAGHER/DYKES KIDNAPPING  
**TAGS:** ASEC, PINS, CASC, LE, (GALLAGHER, CHARLES D), (DYKES, WILLIAM R)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006